

Library

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BUDE/STRATTON

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH


for the year

1954



Health Area Office,
LAUNCESTON.
Cornwall.

WILLIAM PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28962813>

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BUDE/STRATTON

Members of the Public Health Committee:

T. PICKARD (Chairman)
C.A.E. CHUDLEIGH
A.C. HEARD
J.H. MAGGS
D.C.F. McCABE
A. PETHERICK
J.M. RODGERS
Mrs S.E. SWEET
S. LUCAS

G. MARTIN
B.F. SMITH-CLEBURNE
T.S. PETHERICK
B.A. BURROW
Mrs C. WARD
W. BURT
J.E.T. STANBRA
W.J. ELLACOTT

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W.H.P. MINTO, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Resigned 24.4.54)
W. PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Appointed 12.3.54
Assumed duty 14.6.54)

Also holds appointments of:

Medical Officer of Health Stratton Rural District Council
 Launceston Rural District Council
 Launceston Borough Council
 Camelford Rural District Council

Assistant County Medical Officer, Area No. 6 Cornwall County Council

School Medical Officer, Cornwall County Council.

SANITARY INSPECTOR:

P. DURSTON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	4.294
Population	5,130
No. of separate dwellings occupied	1,482
Rateable value 1954	£52,033
Product of ld. rate	£209

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000</u> <u>estimated population</u>
--	--------------	-------------	---------------	--

Live Births

Legitimate	59	31	28	12.47
Illegitimate	5	4	1	

<u>Stillbirths</u>	2	-	2	.389
--------------------	---	---	---	------

<u>Deaths (all causes)</u>	80	44	36	15.59
----------------------------	----	----	----	-------

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	}	N I L
Puerperal & post abortive		
Sepsis		
Other Puerperal Causes		

Infant Mortality (Deaths under 1 year per 1000 live Births) N I L

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	12	4	16
Measles (all ages)	-	-	-
Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	-	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-	-

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL OF BUDE/STRATTON:

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1954.

The health of the people of the district, as far as can be judged by vital statistics, has remained satisfactory and tables showing the trends since 1948, the first year for which accurate records are available, have again been included. There were no deaths of infants under one year of age.

The incidence of infectious disease was low and again no cases of diphtheria were notified.

The sanitary circumstances are discussed in Section "C". In connection with the quality of water samples, I can only repeat my predecessor's remarks about the necessity of the provision of an adequate chlorinating plant at the earliest opportunity.

The completion of the Upton sewer abated a serious nuisance in the Urban District and continued the progress with sewage disposal in the area.

Slum clearance was introduced into the housing picture during the year, the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, requiring the Council to submit a report to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for this purpose.

The end of food rationing during the year brought about the decontrol of meat and slaughtering was released from the control of the Ministry of Food. The Council acquired the lease of the former slaughterhouse and restored it to its old function. This added considerably to the amount of meat inspection carried out by the Council's Sanitary Inspector.

I should like to express my gratitude for the co-operation I have received from the General Medical Practitioners of the district. I must record my thanks to Mr Durston, the Council's Sanitary Inspector, for the valuable assistance he has given me in all aspects of our work and in the preparation of this report.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation of the help and encouragement I have received from the Council, and in particular from the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM PATERSON

Medical Officer of Health

December 1955

SECTION "A"

Natural and Social Conditions

Area (in acres) 4,294. The Urban District of Bude/Stratton is partly a health and seaside resort and partly agricultural in character. It is bounded at its Western extremity by the Atlantic Ocean, the coastline in this particular part of north Cornwall running almost due north and south.

Whilst the hinterland is undulating and hilly in character, contour heights seldom rise above 500 feet and this no doubt is in part the explanation for the exceedingly moderate rainfall figures. (Average annual rainfall for 20 years 33.74"), which in view of exposure to the prevailing south westerly winds, might be expected to be considerably higher.

Population - The Registrar General has estimated the population for the mid-year 1954 to be 5,130 compared with 5,112 in the previous year. In 1954 there were 64 births and 80 deaths, 16 fewer births than deaths.

Vital Statistics - It is important that too much weight should not be attached to small variations in these rates from one year to another, particularly where relatively small populations are involved - attention should rather be paid to the trend of these rates over a period of years.

Deaths - The total number of deaths assigned to the District for the year was 80 compared with 81 in 1953. The crude death rate based on the mid-year population was 15.59, compared with 15.84 in the previous year. The following table has been compiled for comparison with previous years:

<u>Years</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Recorded Rate</u>
1948	82	30	52	15.86
1949	88	29	59	16.90
1950	87	39	48	16.45
1951	96	39	57	18.27
1952	78	37	41	15.21
1953	81	38	43	15.84
1954	80	44	36	15.59

In order to compare the mortality in the District with the mortality for England and Wales, it is necessary to make a correction to allow for the difference in age and sex distribution of the two populations. This is done by applying to the crude death rate of the District an "Area Comparability Factor" which has been estimated by the Registrar General as 0.68 for this District.

The Standardised Death Rate, therefore, is 10.60 which may be compared with that of 11.3 for England and Wales.

Births - The number of live births assigned to this District was 64, compared with 64 in 1953. The rate per thousand of the population is 12.47. When the Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor for births (1.12) is applied to this figure, the Standardised Birth Rate of 13.96 for this District compares with 15.2 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths - The number of stillbirths during 1954 was 2.

Illegitimate Births - There were 5 illegitimate births assigned to the District during the year, 4 male and 1 female, compared with 6 in 1953. Shown as a proportion of the total number of live births, this represents 7.8 per cent.

Maternal Mortality - N I L

Infant Mortality - The number of infants who died before reaching their first birthday was N I L

MORTALITY TABLE

Classified in accordance with 36 headings based on the
Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classi-
fications of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	1	1
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	-	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	-	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	2	6
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	1	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	3	8
18. Coronary disease, angina	9	5	14
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
20. Other heart disease	5	11	16
21. Other circulatory disease	-	3	3
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	2	-	2
24. Bronchitis	1	-	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	2	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	5	-	5
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	3	3
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
34. All other accidents	1	2	3
35. Suicide	1	1	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	44	36	80

SECTION "B"

General Provision of Health Services in Bude/Stratton U.D.

General Medical Services

General medical and dental services under Part IV of the National Health Services Act, 1946, are provided mainly by medical and dental practitioners resident in the District.

Adequate provision is made in the town for pharmaceutical services.

Midwifery and Home Nursing

Midwifery Services in the District are provided by (1) the family doctor - ante and post-natal care and home confinements, (2) the County Council - District Midwives, (3) the Regional Hospital Board hospitals for delivery and treatment.

The County Council provides nurse midwives who attend general nursing and midwifery cases in the home.

The Regional Hospital Board provides staff for an ante-natal clinic held at the Health Clinic, Launceston for mothers who may be admitted to hospital on medical grounds for their confinement.

Maternity home accommodation for normal confinements is available in appropriate cases on social grounds. Old Tree Maternity Home, Launceston, is the home most used for this purpose for the Urban District.

Health Visiting

The County Council continues to provide a Health Visiting Service. The Nurse Midwives are responsible for health visiting in the District and are specially trained in the care of the mother and young child. They are available to give advice on health matters in the home or at the Clinic and also act as school nurses.

Home Help Service

The Home Help Service is provided by the County Council and there is a local Home Help Organiser in Bude.

Ambulance Service

The County Council is responsible for the Ambulance Service the day to day administration of which is carried out from the Health Area Office.

Hospital Car Service

"Utilicon" sitting case ambulances are used for conveying the majority of sitting cases and when it is appropriate some such cases are carried by Hospital Car Service.

School Health

The County Council provides an extensive school health service. Your Medical Officer of Health in his capacity of School Medical Officer carries out routine and special examinations of the children and schools and immunisation.

Infant Welfare Centre

A fortnightly Infant Welfare Clinic is held at The Castle, Bude. Your Medical Officer of Health is in attendance in his capacity as Assistant County Medical Officer.

Dental Clinic

A whole-time School Dental Officer is based at Launceston and he works at the County Council Dental Clinic in The Castle, Bude on one day each week.

Speech Therapy Clinic

A Speech Therapist was appointed for East Cornwall in 1953 and she works at The Castle, Bude each Friday morning.

Ophthalmic Clinic

The Regional Hospital Board Eye Specialist holds an Eye Clinic for schoolchildren and children under school age at the Castle, Bude. This Clinic is arranged as and when a suitable number of children become available.

Orthopaedic Clinic

Also provided by the Regional Hospital Board at The Castle, Bude is an Orthopaedic Clinic held weekly.

Out-Patients' Clinics

Medical, Surgical, Paediatric, Gynaecological and Ear, Nose & Throat Out-Patients' clinics are held at Stratton Cottage Hospital. The Regional Hospital Board also provides Out-patients Clinics at The Launceston Hospital for Medical, Surgical and Gynaecological, Skin, Ear Nose and Throat and Tuberculosis patients. A physiotherapy Clinic is available at The Tavistock and Holsworthy Hospitals. A psychiatric Clinic is held at The South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, as is also a Venereal Diseases Clinic.

Chronic Sick

Accommodation is available for chronic sick cases at St. Mary's Hospital, Launceston, and limited Part III accommodation is also provided there for those cases who come under the care of the Welfare Authority (Cornwall County Council). The Bude Old Peoples Home which is managed by a voluntary Committee, provides accommodation for Old People.

Hospitals

The District is served by Stratton Cottage Hospital and patients are admitted to the following hospitals in Plymouth - Prince of Wales, Mount Gold, South Devon and East Cornwall, Royal Albert (Devonport), Alexandra Maternity Home and the Royal Eye Infirmary. The Scott Isolation Hospital admits cases of infectious diseases. Cases of tuberculosis requiring sanatorium treatment are, as a rule, admitted to Didworthy or Tehidy Sanatoria.

Mental Health

Patients from the District who require hospital care and/or treatment for mental illness are admitted either to St. Lawrence Hospital, Bodmin, **Laninval** House, Bodmin or Moorfields Hospital, Ivybridge.

After-care is a function of the County Council.

Laboratory facilities

The Public Health Laboratory, Dix's Field, Exeter is the easiest of access and it renders valuable service towards the detection and prevention of spread of diseases in the Dist~~ric~~ot.

SECTION "C"

Sanitary Circumstances of the District - 1954

Water Supplies

The water for most of the Urban District and parts of the adjoining Rural District is provided by the Council's water undertaking; the collection reservoir being situated at Tamar Lake. The amount of water collected in this reservoir remains adequate to meet all demands, even at peak periods, but delivery in the distribution area continues to be hampered by inadequate filtration, storage and distribution facilities. The summer of the year under review was a wet one (Rainfall for June, July and August 1954 - 10.19ins., average rainfall for the same three months - 6.57 ins., annual rainfall 1954 - 38.47 ins. Average annual rainfall 33.4 ins.), and this was undoubtedly a contributory factor in reducing the lack of pressure at the high levels, but the problem still remains a very real one. It is to be hoped, therefore, that it will be possible to implement the scheme outlined in the Annual Report for 1953 in the foreseeable future. This scheme included, broadly, additional filtration facilities, a new 7" main from Leigh to Hillhead, and a new 4" main from Stamford Hill to Inches Shop, with storage reservoir, and a borehole well with submersible pump at Inches Shop to augment the supply in that area.

As will be seen from the table appended below, the bacteriological purity of the water has not been consistently good. This is thought to be due, as has been noted in previous reports, partly to the amount of dissolved humus present in the water, and partly to the type of chlorination plant employed; when the scheme outlined above is put into operation, these points will no doubt be considered by the Council.

When unsatisfactory reports have been received from the Bacteriological Laboratory these have been passed on by the Sanitary Inspector to the Water Engineer, and adjustments have been made at the filter-beds and/or chlorination plant.

Summary of Reports on Bacteriological Water Samples

Filter Beds, Vealand. (Filtered but unchlorinated)

Satisfactory (No organisms)

33.3%

Unsatisfactory

66.6%

Tap water samples (Filtered and chlorinated)

	<u>Class I</u>	<u>Class II</u>	<u>Class III</u>	<u>Class IV</u>
Bude	58.8%	11.7%	23.4%	5.1%
Stratton	36.1%	27.7%	30.5%	5.7%
Poughill	40.0%	17.3%	32.6%	10.1%
Distt.as whole	42.0%	20.0%	30.0%	8.0%

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Bude - The sewerage of Bude is generally in good condition and the sewage is disposed of by means of a sea-outfall discharging south of the main beaches. The system works very satisfactorily.

Stratton - The works at Stratton consist of detritus and pre-settlement tanks, settlement tanks and land irrigation. Improvements to the works were completed in 1955 and these have resulted in a better effluent from the works.

At the time of writing there appears to be no likelihood of the sewerage system of Stratton being relaid. The existing system is old and in poor condition, and it is a matter for conjecture how long it will continue to serve that part of the District with any reasonable degree of efficiency.

Poughill - The sewerage of Poughill is new, and was only completed in 1952. It connects with the main Bude system and discharges through the sea-outfall at Compass Point. Only seven properties in the village now remain unconnected to the main system.

Upton - The proposed work of disconnecting the old sewage disposal works, and connecting up the sewer to the Bude system by laying a new length of 9" sewer from Upton Cross to South Lynstone Farm was completed during the year, and a very serious nuisance, viz. the effluent of the Upton Works, was thus abated. The work of laying the new length of sewer was carried out by direct labour under the supervision of the Surveyor, and a difficult task, sometimes necessitating 15 ft. depth of excavation, was completed with speed and efficiency.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

A full-time fully trained Rodent Operator is employed by the Council for work under this Act, the administration being the responsibility of the Sanitary Inspector.

No formal proceedings under the Act have been necessary, due to the high degree of co-operation received from property owners and tenants. Private dwellings business premises and Council properties have all been subjected to regular treatments, almost exclusively with Warfarin, and the degree of infestation remains very light, no instance of a major infestation being experienced throughout the year.

The usual Annual Test Baiting and Maintenance Treatments were carried out, and again the results were very satisfactory, very little evidence of any infestation being found.

Number of survey visits by the Rodent Operator.....	528
Number of Treatments carried out.....	712
Number of revisits made.....	1521

Moveable Dwellings

There are in the area four licensed camping sites, one of which has a permanent licence; the remaining three being licensed for the

summer months only. The occupiers of the sites are very conscientious and co-operative and in general the hygienic standards are maintained at a high level. Refuse is collected by the Council's refuse lorry at the times of collection normal to the respective sites. One of the sites possesses main drainage, and the remainder closets of the chemical type, the contents of which are suitably disposed of by the respective occupiers of the sites.

There is also within the District one caravan with an individual licence. This licence expired during the year and was provisionally renewed for a further period of twelve months. The caravan is effectively screened from residential property in the area, possesses main drainage, and has been maintained at a high standard of cleanliness throughout the period.

Public Cleansing

The Cornwall County Council control most of the roads in the District, but the work of street cleansing is carried out mainly by the Urban District Council's staff.

Refuse collection is undertaken by the Council throughout the District, by means of an "S & D" "Chelsea" "M" type fore and aft tipper, with side loading facilities, and a capacity of 11.3 cu.yds. The crew consists of a driver and loader.

The method of controlled tipping remains in use for the disposal of the refuse, and the tip at Tiscott Wood has sufficient capacity to remain in use for a considerable time to come.

National Assistance Act 1948

Section 47 - No action

Section 50 - No action

SECTION "D"

Housing

During the year under review, the Council completed 11 new permanent dwellings, and on 31st December, there were in the course of erection a further 14. Although these figures are not quite as high as those for the previous year, the rate of building has been maintained at a reasonable level. Building commenced at the new Flexbury site in August 1954, and by the end of the year 10 houses were in the course of erection there.

The increase in the number of private houses being erected has been maintained, and the total is practically double that for the year 1953, which had up to then produced the highest figure in post-war years.

Actual figures are:-

Number of houses completed during the year.....16
Number under construction at end of year.....10

Housing Statistics

1. Inspections of dwelling houses during the year:
 - (a) No. inspected for defects under the Public Health & Housing Acts.....10
 - (b) Inspections made for the purpose.....36
2.
 - (a) No. inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regs. 1925/32
 - (b) Inspections made for the purpose } NIL
3. No. found to be in a state dangerous or injurious to health to such an extent as to be unfit for human habitation..... 2
4. Dwelling houses (exclusive of those under preceeding sub-heading) not in all respects reasonably fit for habitation..... 8
5. Remedy of defects during the year without the service of a formal notice:

No. of houses rendered fit in consequence of the L.B.C. or Officer's action 5

Housing Act.....NIL

Public Health Act..... 5

6. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

- (a) Proceedings under Secs. 9, 10 & 16
Housing Act, 1936
- (i) Dwelling houses in respect of which
notices were served requiring
repairs.
- (ii) Dwelling houses rendered fit after
service of formal notice
- (a) By Owners
- (b) By L.A. in default of owners
- N I L

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:

- (i) Dwelling houses in respect of which
notices were served requiring defects
to be remedied.....3
- (ii) Dwelling houses in which defects were
remedied after service of formal
notice.....3
- (a) By Owners.....3
- (b) By L.A. in default of Owners.....NIL

(c) Proceedings under Sec. 11 and 13 of the
Housing Act, 1936.

- (i) Dwelling houses represented under
Section 11.....2
- (ii) Dwelling houses in respect of which
demolition orders were made.....NIL
- (iii) Dwelling houses demolished.....NIL
- (iv) Dwelling houses rendered fit
by Owners..... 2
- (v) Dwelling houses where undertakings
not to relet at the end of the
present tenancy were accepted by
the L.A. from the Owner..... 2

(d) Proceedings under Sec. 12 Housing Act 1936

- (i) Separate tenements or underground
rooms in respect of which Closing
Orders were made.....NIL
- (ii) No. of separate tenements and
underground rooms in respect of
which Closing Orders were determined....NIL

(e) Proceedings under Secs. 25 and 26 of the
Housing Act, 1936.

- (i) No. of houses dealt with under Sec. 25.....NIL
- (ii) No. of Clearance Orders made under Sec. 26..NIL
- (iii) No. of families living in Clearance Area...NIL

SECTION "E"

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Food premises and Clean Food

The number and types of premises in the District are:

Restaurants and Hotel Kitchens.....	43
Bakers and Confectioners.....	5
Butchers (Sec.14).....	5
Dairies.....	5
Ice Cream Manufacturers.....	2
Ice Cream Dealers.....	29

No. of inspections of registered Food Premises.....127

No. of inspections of other Food Premises.....136

The District has a large summer holiday industry, resulting in considerable fluctuations of the population. Many hotels, restaurants, etc. are closed during the winter months, thus staff personnel seldom remain the same from season to season, and training and the maintenance of satisfactory staffs is difficult. The other food trades do not experience this difficulty to any marked degree, and in general the standards of cleanliness and general hygiene remain high.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sec. 15.

The Food Handling Byelaws authorised under this section have now been in operation in the District for four years, and have been useful in securing improvements where necessary.

Meat Inspection

During the year the Ministry of Food handed back to Local Authorities the control of the slaughter of animals within their respective Districts. No applications were received by the Council for the renewal of licenses for existing slaughterhouses, and indeed, it is doubtful whether such applications, if received, would have received favourable consideration, due to structural defects and lack of the proper amenities. There were, therefore, no facilities within the District for slaughtering by local butchers.

The Council very properly felt that such facilities ought to be provided, and negotiations were commenced with a view to obtaining a lease on the slaughterhouse at Bude Station, from British Railways. These negotiations were subsequently successful, and the Council acquired a very satisfactory modern building, which, with the addition of some equipment, has proved adequate for local needs, and has further provided facilities for an export trade. The site of the slaughterhouse, being immediately adjacent to the railway sidings, is very conveniently situated for despatching consignments of meat by rail.

Initially, it was only possible to engage two slaughtermen, one on a full-time and one on a part-time basis, but local butchers who were also licensed slaughtermen undertook to assist until further staff could be found. This scheme worked satisfactorily as long as it was found necessary, and by the end of the year the regular staff was increased and consisted of two full-time slaughtermen, one part time slaughter-man and one labourer.

The slaughterhouse came into operation on the 16th September, and up to the end of December the throughput was as follows:-

Steers.....	32
Heifers.....	42
Cows and bulls.....	10
Sheep.....	1055
Ewes and rams.....	1
Calves.....	1277
Pigs.....	731
Sows and boars...	21

Total	3169
-------	------

Regarding evidence of disease found on post-mortem examination; only two animals were totally condemned in the 3¹/₂ months of operation. One of these was a calf suffering from congenital tuberculosis, in which active lesions were found in the hepatic lymph nodes, and in the substance of the liver. The other animal was a yearling of 126 lbs. suffering from generalised tuberculosis. The relative age of the respective lesions and probable course of infection as judged from post-mortem examination suggested that this might also be a case of congenital infection, and both cases were reported to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Generally, however, the incidence of tuberculosis both in cattle and pigs was remarkably low, and in all other cases only isolated lesions were found, notably in the bronchial and mediastinal nodes in cattle (pulmonary T.B.) and in the sub-maxillary nodes in pigs.

A large number of livers, both of cattle and sheep were lost due to fascioliasis. This was no doubt due, in part, to the higher than average rainfall during the year. Most of the cases, particularly in sheep were in the acute stage; and in very few cases was there any serious loss of nutritional condition.

The amount of other foods, notably tinned goods, which it was necessary to condemn, showed a marked decrease. It is felt that this decrease was, perhaps, not so much due to an improved general standard, as to the fact that many wholesale firms do not now insist on a condemnation certificate being produced before a credit note is granted to the retailer. Much of the tinned food which one was called upon to condemn was decomposed to such a marked degree that no retailer could possibly have sold it, and one often felt that the time used in writing large numbers of condemnation certificates in these instances could have been more usefully employed.

Condemned meat from the abattoir is removed by a contractor for sterilisation and manufacture into animal feeding stuffs etc. Other foods are removed to the Council's refuse tip and buried.

Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947

There are 29 ice-cream dealers in the District. Only two of these manufacture their own product. One uses a cold mix, and his results have been consistently satisfactory; the other uses a hot mix, and whilst he has not maintained a high standard throughout the season, the results of samples taken has shown a considerable improvement on previous years.

Summary of results of Samples - 1954

Provisional Methylene Blue Test

Result in Grade I.....	42.50%
" " Grade II.....	36.25%
" " Grade III.....	11.25%
" " Grade IV.....	10.00%

SECTION "F"

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases

Smallpox

No case was notified during the year. There is an unjustifiable feeling of complacency about this disease on the part of many parents which results in a neglect of infant vaccinations. Air-travel, however, has greatly increased the risk of the introduction of smallpox into this country and the need for adequate protection by effective vaccination is greater than ever before. It should be pointed out that vaccination by modern techniques produces only a small local reaction with slight general upset and parents who are apprehensive on this account may be reassured. 40 primary vaccinations were carried out during the year, a figure which gives no grounds for satisfaction.

Diphtheria

No cases were notified during the year. The number of children receiving primary immunisation was 57. Immunisation gives effective protection against this disease and is attended by little or no reaction. To ensure continued freedom from diphtheria, it is necessary to maintain an adequate level of immunity in the population as a whole. For this reason, all parents should see that their children are protected in this way. Arrangements to have this done can be made with the family doctor, or at the Infant Welfare Centre.

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population - See Table VI.

Whooping Cough

Two cases were notified in 1954. An effective vaccine is available against this disease and is usually administered in combination with the diphtheria prophylactic.

Measles

25 cases occurred during the year.

Acute Poliomyelitis

No case was notified during the year. One case, notified as meningococcal infection, may have been the non-paralytic form of this disease, but was not definitely proved.

Food-poisoning

No case was notified during 1954.

Tuberculosis

	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non.Pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non.Pul.</u>
Cases on Register				
31.12.53	14	-	7	1
No. of cases notified				
during 1954	5	-	1	-
Cases Restores	-	-	1	-
Inward Transfers	1	-	1	-
Cases Removed	-	-	2	-
Cases on register				
31.12.54	20	-	8	1

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

The Regional Hospital Board is responsible for treatment of Tuberculosis patients and the County Council for the prevention of spread of the disease and after-care of the patients.

Out-patients and contacts are seen by the Chest Physician (Dr. Mellor) at the Chest Clinic at Lauceston Hospital. The County Council Tuberculosis Health Visitor attends the Clinic, follows up the patients in their homes, traces contacts and sources of infection and, thus acting as a most valuable and essential "liaison officer" between the curative and preventive services, bridges a most alarming gap.

During the year, the scheme for B.C.G. Vaccination of susceptible school children in the 14 year old group was put into operation by the County Council, with an excellent response. It is a long term scheme, however, with a five year follow-up period and it will not be possible to assess the results fully for some time.

B.C.G. Vaccination continues to be offered to all susceptible contacts of known cases, and during 1954, 74 persons received this vaccination in Health Area No. 6.

SECTION "G"

Factories Act, 1937

Classified list of Factories as at 31st
December, 1954

<u>Nature of employment</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>Non-power</u>
1. Food manufacture	4	-
2. Wearing Apparel		
(a) boots and shoes	3	-
(b) Outfitting	1	-
3. Carpentry, joinery and saw mills	6	2
4. Garages, repairshops and engineers	9	2
5. Laundries	1	-
6. Monumental masons	1	1
7. Gas works	1	-
8. Plumbers	-	2
9. Dairies	-	3
10. Electrical Engineering	1	1
11. Photography	-	2
12. Printing works	1	-
13. Cabinet makers and upholsterers	-	3

TABLE I

TUBERCULOSIS

Age and Sex distribution of
Cases and Deaths 1954

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Other</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE IIVITAL STATISTICSSummary for Previous Years

Year	Estimated Population	No.	Births Crude Rate	Under 1 year No.	Rate	Deaths All Ages	
						No.	Crude Death Rate
1948	5,170	80	15.47	4	50	82	15.86
1949	5,207	63	12.10	2	31.74	88	16.90
1950	5,286	56	10.59	2	53.57	87	16.45
1951	5,254	73	13.89	3	41.09	96	18.27
1952	5,126	71	13.85	NIL	NIL	78	15.21
1953	5,112	64	12.51	1	15.62	81	15.84
1954	5,130	64	12.47	-	-	80	15.59

TABLE IIIMonthly Incidence of Notifiable Diseases
(other than Tuberculosis)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Measles	-	22	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	25
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	4
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	1	25	1	-	1	-	2	-	4	-	-	-	34

TABLE IV

Notifications of Infectious Diseases in Cornwall County
Council, Area 6, during 1954

	WHOOPING COUGH		MEASLES		SCARLET FEVER		PNEUMONIA		POLIOMYELITIS (non-paralytic)		PURPURAL PRAEIA		TUBERCULOSIS (pulmonary)		TUBERCULOSIS (non-pulmonary)		ERYSIPLES		DYSENTERY		GONOCOCCAL INFECTION	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Bude/Stratton Urban District	1	1	22	3	-	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Launceston Borough	-	-	2	10	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	3	2	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
Launceston Rural District	3	2	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Stratton Rural District	6	8	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Camelford Rural District	27	29	-	3	2	1	7	15	1	-	-	-	5	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	37	40	24	17	3	6	15	18	2	-	-	1	13	10	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2

TABLE V

Summary of Sanitary Inspector's Inspections

<u>Description of premises</u>	<u>No. of visits</u>	<u>No. of defects found</u>	<u>No. of defects remedied</u>
Bakehouses	18	3	3
Dairies	36	1	1
Food preparation premises	239	21	21
Factories	109	3	1
Housing	343	10	10
Butchers	31	1	1
Shops	98	9	9
Water supplies	143	-	-
Verminous premises	4	-	-
Pests Destruction	99	-	-

Nuisances and defects remedied during the year

Overcrowding	11	Refuse receptacles	59
Keeping of animals	12	Camping sites	5
Sanitary accommodation		Yard paving	1
(a) Insufficient	-	Dampness	5
(b) Defective	8	Roofs & R.W. pipes	12
Drainage		Floors	6
(a) Reconstructed	-	Walls and ceilings	2
(b) Repaired	30	Windows and vent:	-
(c) Cleansed	9	Water supplies	6
Cesspools			
(a) Abolished	-		
(b) Repaired	5		

Total visits of all kinds made by the Sanitary Inspector
during the year.....1,537

TABLE VI

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION

Number of children at 31st December 1954 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January 1949.)

Age at 31.12.54 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1954	1 - 4 1953-1950	5 - 9 1949-1945	10 - 14 1944-1940	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (Whether primary or booster) A. 1950-1954	8	168	251	167	594
B. 1949 or earlier			29	1	30
C. Estimated mid- year child population	64	264	366	324	1018
Immunity Index 100.4/C	13	64	69	51	58

